

2.3 UTILITIES / EMERGENCY SERVICES

The information below is summarized from the project Community Impact Assessment Report, January 2004 which is available for public review at Caltrans District 4, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610, and the Solano Transportation Authority, One Harbor Center, Suite 130, Suisun City, CA 94585 during normal business hours. This section discusses the impacts to water services, law enforcement, and fire protection.

Affected Environment

Utilities

The project area contains various utilities, such as electrical and telephone lines, and sewer lines typical of a suburban and rural setting. The most significant utility in the project area is a State Department of Water Resources water pipeline called the North Bay Aqueduct (NBA) which runs just north of and parallel to I-80 between SR12's eastern section and the I-80/I-680 interchange. The NBA is part of the California State Water Project. The State Water Project is a water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants, and pumping stations. Its main purpose is to store water and distribute it to 29 urban and agricultural water suppliers in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California.

Police

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) has jurisdiction over I-80, I-680, and SR12 for matters involving both traffic and emergency services. The Solano CHP office is located at 3050 Travis Boulevard in Fairfield. The East and West sections of the project are located in unincorporated Solano County land, and the County Sheriff has jurisdiction in that area. The Solano County Sheriff Department's office is located on Texas Street in Fairfield. The Central Section of the project is located in the City of Fairfield and police services are provided by the City of Fairfield Police Department. The City of Fairfield Police Department is located at the Fairfield City Hall at 1000 Webster Street.

Fire and Emergency Response

The East End of the project is located in Solano County and is served by the Suisun Fire Protection District. Fire and emergency response within the Central Section is provided by the City of Fairfield Fire Department. In the West End of the project, the Cordelia Fire Protection District provides service in the unincorporated area between the Fairfield city limits and Red Top Road.

The Suisun Fire Protection District is located at 445 Jackson Street in Fairfield. It serves 1,136 properties on 136 square miles. The district has one full-time and two part-time employees and 42 volunteer firefighters. The City of Fairfield Fire Department maintains five fire stations, four of which are in Fairfield. Station One is located at 1633 Union Avenue; Station Two, at 1975 Huntington Avenue; Station Three, at 100 Serano Drive; Station Four at 2555 Hilborn Drive; and Station Five at 473 #A Edison Court in Cordelia. According to the City of Fairfield's website, the Fairfield Fire Department is in the process of relocating two of its existing fire stations so that 98 percent of the residences in the City will be within a five-minute travel time from the closest fire station. The new stations will be located at North Texas Street at the Dickson Hill Water Treatment Plant

property and at the Civic Center on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Kentucky Street.¹

The Cordelia Fire Protection District is a small, rural fire district that provides fire and emergency medical services to the communities of Green Valley, Rockville, Cordelia, and Lower Suisun Valley. The department is based primarily upon the service of its volunteer and resident firefighters. It serves a population of approximately 5,000 residents and provides 911 responses for approximately 56 square miles of land and 130 miles of interstate freeway, highway, and county roads. It is an active participant in local mutual and automatic-aid agreements. The District's personnel currently consist of 52 members with a breakdown of three career personnel, 23 volunteer personnel, and 27 resident firefighters. The District currently has two stations. Station One is located close to the I-80/I-680 interchange while Station Three is located in the Green Valley area.²

Impacts

Permanent and Temporary Impacts

Utilities

During construction, the roadway median would be constructed to follow the DWR pipeline. Because the travel lanes would be outside of the median, no impact to the pipeline would occur. The Department of Water Resources considers this an acceptable configuration. The project may require relocating utilities such as power lines or telephone lines. Temporary easements would be required for the relocation of these utilities.

Because the pipeline would not be relocated and no alteration to the pipeline would occur, this is considered a less than significant impact.

Police/Emergency Response

No long-term impacts are anticipated for police, fire, and emergency response services as a result of the proposed project. The project will increase the amount of roads in the area, and could possibly provide for quicker response times. However construction activity could temporarily impact response times.

During construction, traffic detours may be necessary at the intersection of Red Top Road and SR12 and along Business Center Drive and Mangels Blvd in the Central Section. The project would require police and fire emergency access in the event of an emergency during construction.

Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

Impact UTIL 1: Construction could also temporarily disrupt traffic circulation patterns on Red Top Road, Abernathy Road, Business Center Drive, Suisun Valley Road and Rockville Road including increased congestion of affected roadways during construction and disrupted access to businesses along Russell and Abernathy Road. Access to residential properties along Kaiser Drive and Abernathy Road would also be temporarily affected during construction of the new roadway.

¹ www.ci.fairfield.ca.us/fire/fire_houses.html

² www.cordeliafire.com

During project construction, police and emergency services may be temporarily disrupted as a result of traffic delays, temporarily closed roads, and detours routes. Access to business and residences in the East End may be temporarily affected as a result of construction activities. The construction for each project section is estimated to take approximately six to nine months. The construction time would vary depending upon the final staging plan for the work. This impact is considered significant because such delays can affect emergency services response times as well as result in temporary businesses disruptions.

Mitigation Measure UTIL 1: A traffic management plan (TMP) shall be implemented during construction. The TMP shall be consistent with County and Caltrans roadway construction guidelines and identify the locations of temporary detours and signage to facilitate local traffic patterns and through-traffic requirements. Except in emergencies, I-80 ramp closures (if necessary) will occur only during nonpeak hours and likely only at night; any ramp closure will comply with Caltrans ramp closure chart. Daytime access to businesses will be retained during construction. To the extent that business access must be disrupted, the disruption will occur only at night. Access to residences Kaiser Drive and Abernathy Road will be maintained during construction. Affected businesses and residences shall be notified at least 1 week in advance of any lane or roadway closures or impacts related to access. Emergency service providers, such as fire and police protection, shall be notified 1–2 weeks in advance of any lane or roadway closures so that alternate routes can be taken.

Page Left Intentionally Blank